

**From:** Geoff Heredia  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/21/02 12:12pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I have been working in the software industry for over 4 years in both large and small companies, and I have advanced degrees in Economics and Business Management from the top universities in our country. I am concerned about the Proposed Final Settlement falling far short of penalizing Microsoft for its clearly anti-competitive business practices. In my view, this agreement lets the company "off the hook" far too lightly for the competition that it has virtually eliminated in 3 main markets: (1) desktop operating system; (2) personal computer productivity software (i.e. spreadsheets, word processing, etc.); and (3) Internet browsing software.

The monopolistic position that Microsoft now occupies is not addressed by this settlement. Furthermore, the lack of competition in the 3 markets listed above will continue to offer consumers little or no choices in the software they can use for business and personal. No competition ensures that consumers and businesses will undoubtedly continue to over pay for software that they must buy in order to make any real use of their computers. Additionally, new companies and their product innovations will most likely fail or achieve unfairly limited success because of the extraordinary market challenges posed by the monopoly Microsoft has.

I urge you to reconsider this settlement and its terms in the light of market competition. We certainly need competition to bring out the best in our high technology sectors, but we certainly don't need monopolies in our software industry.

Thanks for your consideration,

Geoff Heredia  
Dated January 21, 2002

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